(c) Indian Railways do not maintain account of funds allocated/released for the provision of Railway facilities on "State" basis. Projects are sanctioned on a zonal basis. Expenditure incurred on doublings, which can be clearly identified for the State of Kerala, is given below :

1994-95	Rs. 14.00 crores
1995-96	Rs. 43.00 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores
1997-98	Rs. 65.00 crores.

Accident Claims

*336. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the average time taken by the claim tribunals to settle the claims;

(b) the details of cases lying pending for more than one to three years;

(c) the reasons for the delay in their settlement; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) about 10 months.

(b)

Name of the Bench	Number of case lying pending for more than one to three years as on 1.7.97
Delhi	2
Lucknow	20
Gorakhpur	15
Chennai	6
Secunderabad	1
Ernakulam	2
Bangalore	5
Bhopal	6
Total	57

(c) Even though top priority is given by the Tribunal to the disposal of accident claims cases, delays occur because of :-

(i) Non-attendance by the applicants or their counsels;

(ii) Adjournments sought by the applicants/their counsel for producing their witnesses or other evidence;

(iii) Non-availability of heirship title with the claimants.

(iv) Transfer of claims cases from one bench to the other, sought by the claimants.

(v) Dispute about guardianship of minor claimants.

(d) Following steps are being taken for speedy disposal of claims of passengers :-

I. **Administrative Action**

(i) Instructions have been issued to all zonal railways that as soon as a passenger train accident or untoward incident takes place all particulars of injured and killed may be obtained, claim application forms sent to claimants, and the record should also be made available to the concerned bench of Railway Claims Tribunal.

(ii) When claims are filled and put up for hearing, the railways should give all possible assistance to the tribunal for speedy settlement.

(iii) Written statements are to be filed by the railways in such cases within 30 days after receipt of notice from RCT.

(iv) Chief Claims Officers have been empowered to sanction decreed amount upto Rs. 2 lakhs without prior finance concurrence.

(v) After the decreetal amount of claim has been sanctioned, railways have to ensure that cheques are issued and dispatched within a period of 15 days.

II. **Action by the Tribunal**

(i) Top priority is given to the disposal of accident claims cases.

(ii) Circuit benches are held from time to time at stations other than headquarters of the bench for convenience of claimants;

ii) Members from one bench are deputed to other benches whenever required due to non-availability of a member at that bench;

(iv) Requests of claimants are allowed for transfer of cases from one bench to the other near to their residence for their convenience.

(v) Adjournments are not ordinarily granted to the parties.

Indecent Programmes and Advertisement on Cable Network

*337. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for the appointment of officers by the State Governments under the Cable TV Network (Regulation) for the monitoring/checking of the programmes transmitted/retransmitted by the Cable TV Networks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the indecent programmes and advertisements still being telecast over the Cable TV Network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Sections 11,18 and 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for an authorised officer by the State Government not below the rank of a Group 'A' officer of the Central Government. The functions of the authorised officer are :

(i) Seizure of equipment being used by unregistered cable operators in contravention of Section 3 of the Act.

(ii) Making complaints in writing to the court for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the Act.

(iii) Prohibiting any cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any particular programme if it is likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes of communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquility.

(c) Section 5 and 6 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides that all the programmes and advertisements transmitted or re-transmitted through a cable service should conform to the prescribed codes. However, free to air foreign satellite channels have been exempted from compliance with programme and advertisement codes. Most of the foreign satellite channels available, today, in India are free to air and all of them, including pay channels, are uplinked from outside the country. Thus the existing laws do not provide for an effective regulation over these channels. In order to regulate the foreign satellite channels and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws and regulations. Government have already introduced a broadcasting bill in the Parliament.,

Films Produced by NFDC for Children

*338. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of films produced by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) for children during 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether all the above films produced by NFDC during above period were in Hindi;

(c) if so, whether the Government also propose to produce films for children in regional languages; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not produced any films for children during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996. The Corporation however, produced feature films in various regional languages. Children's films are produced by National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP) in Hindi and regional languages. During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996, 3 feature films, 1 TV serial (13 episodes), 2 short animation films and 1 puppet animation TV serial (17 episodes) were produced by N'CYP. Out of these, one feature film was in Marathi. Further 6 feature films and 1 short film were dubbed in regional languages.

Delay in Disbursement of Matured Amount of National Savings

*339. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is taking place in the post offices to disburse the matured amount of National Savings to the investors;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disbursal;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit of remittance of recurring deposit collections to the post offices by the MPKBY agents from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Payments under various National Savings Schemes are generally made in time. A few complaints have however, been received about delays in payment of the matured amounts.

(b) As an ongoing mechanism, the following steps are taken;

(i) Immediate enquiries are made into the complaints and remedial measures are taken promptly.

(ii) Surprise checks are made by the field staff to see that there is no delay in making payments to the investors;

(iii) Instructions are issued from time to time to curb delays in the disbursal of matured amounts to the investors.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been considered so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Mini Cement Plants by NRDC

*340. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Agreements executed by National Research Development Corporation for setting up of Mini Cement plants during 1995-96 and 1996-97;